

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-35, 37-39 and 41-45 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the drawings, Abstract, specification, and claims 1-35, 37-39 and 41-44 are amended, claim 45 is added, and claims 36 and 40 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is added. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims and the drawings. Withdrawal of the rejections in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 40 and 42 would be allowable if rewritten into independent form. The subject matter of allowable claim 40 and intervening claim 36 has been incorporated into independent claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1, as well as claims 2-35, 37-39 and 41-44, which depend therefrom, should be in condition for allowance. Further, new claim 45 is allowable claim 42 written in substantially independent form, and thus it is respectfully submitted that new independent claim 45 should also be in condition for allowance. It is further submitted that, as all of pending claims 1-35, 37-39 and 41-45 are in condition for allowance, the application should also be in condition for allowance.

II. Objections to the Drawings

The Office Action objects to the Drawings, asserting that Figures 1-3 lack an appropriate legend. Figures 1-3 have been amended to include the legend "Related Art" consistent with the description thereof in the specification. Accordingly, the objection should be withdrawn.

III. Double Patenting Rejection and Terminal Disclaimer

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-5 of U.S. Patent No. 7,146,903 to Choi et al. (hereinafter "Choi"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-5 of this application are not obvious over claims 1-5 of Choi. However, notwithstanding that many of the claims in this application recite features not recited in claims 1-5 of Choi, merely to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicant submits herewith a Terminal Disclaimer. It is respectfully submitted that the Terminal Disclaimer is sufficient to overcome the double patenting rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-5 under obviousness-type double patenting is respectfully requested.

IV. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

The Office Action rejects claim 44 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as allegedly indefinite. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to claim 44 are responsive to the Examiner's comments, and that claim 44 meets the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

V. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Office Action rejects claims 1-13, 15-20 and 27-33 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,755,624 to Bae et al. (hereinafter "Bae"). It appears, based on the remarks in the Office Action, that it was the Examiner's intention to include claim 34 in this statement of rejection. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As set forth above, the subject matter of allowable claim 40 and intervening claim 36 has been incorporated into independent claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is not anticipated by Bae, and thus the rejection of independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Bae should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 2-13, 15-20 and 27-33, as well as claim 34, are allowable at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

VI. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 3,873,446 to Campbell (hereinafter "Campbell"); rejects claims 21-25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Bae; rejects claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Bae in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,906,047 to Miller et al. (hereinafter "Miller"); and rejects claim 35 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Bae in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,725,593 to Caracciolo (hereinafter "Caracciolo"). The Office Action also rejects claim 36 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Bae in view of Caracciolo. However, it appears, based on the remarks in the Office Action, that it was the Examiner's intention to reject claims 36-39, 41, 43 and 44 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Bae in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,416,177 to Young (hereinafter "Young"). Claim 36 has been cancelled. These rejections, in so far as they apply to the remaining claims, are respectfully traversed.

Dependent claims 14, 21-16, 35, 37-39, 41, 43 and 44 are allowable over Bae at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for their added features. Further, Campbell is merely cited as allegedly teaching the use of a U-shaped spacer; Miller is merely cited as allegedly teaching a second elastic member having

a greater diameter than a first elastic member; Caracciolo is merely cited as allegedly teaching the use of a ring member; and Young is merely cited as allegedly teaching the use of a balance weight. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Campbell, Miller, Caracciolo and Young, either alone or in combination, fail to overcome the deficiencies of Bae. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 14, 21-16, 35, 37-39, 41, 43 and 44 are allowable over the respective applied combinations, and thus the rejections should be withdrawn.

VII. New Claim 45

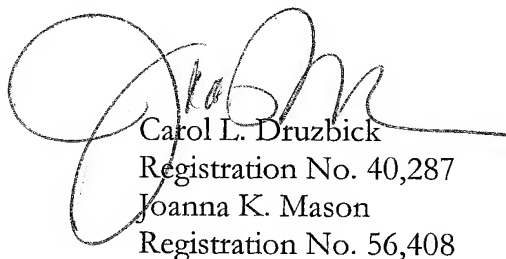
New independent claim 45 is added to the application. It is respectfully submitted that new claim 45 meets the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, and is allowable for the reasons set forth above.

VIII. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned, **Joanna K. Mason**, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
KED & ASSOCIATES, LLP



Carol L. Druzbeck
Registration No. 40,287
Joanna K. Mason
Registration No. 56,408

P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, Virginia 20153-1200
(703) 766-3777 CLD/JKM/krf

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Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610

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